

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A fall protection device for an opening in a roof, said device comprising:
a plurality of vertical members each having a lower end;
a plurality of horizontal members connecting the vertical members;
a plurality of bearing feet each having a connecting portion and a bearing portion;
wherein each bearing foot is secured to the lower end of one of said plurality of vertical members so that the bearing portion of the bearing feet support the vertical members above the roof; and
wherein a hardness of the bearing portion is greater than a hardness of the connecting portion.
2. The fall protection device of claim 1, wherein each bearing foot is molded of plastic.
3. The fall protection device of claim 1, wherein the plastic is polypropylene.
4. The fall protection device of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of vertical members is in the form of a tube.
5. The fall protection device of claim 4, wherein each bearing foot has a passage formed therein which communicates an interior space of the tube with ambient space outside the tube.
6. The fall protection device of claim 1, wherein the connecting portion of the bearing foot extends into an open lower end of the tube and resiliently engages an interior surface of the tube to secure the bearing foot thereto.
7. The fall protection device of claim 1, wherein the bearing portion is annular shaped having an upper surface and a lower surface spaced from the lower surface and inner and outer edges of the lower bearing surface are free of sharp corners.

8. The fall protection device of claim 1, wherein the bearing portion has an upper surface and a lower surface spaced from the lower surface and a thickness of the bearing portion is at least 0.25 inches.

9. The fall protection device of claim 1, wherein the connecting portion and the bearing portion are co-molded so that each bearing foot is of unitary construction.

10. The fall protection device of claim 1, wherein both the hardness of the connection portion and the hardness of the bearing portion fall within the range of Shore A 90 hardness.

11. A fall protection device for an opening in a roof, said device comprising:
at least one rail section having a vertical member;
wherein the vertical member has a lower end;
a bearing foot having a connecting portion and a bearing portion;
wherein the bearing foot is secured to the lower end of the vertical member by the connecting portion so that the bearing portion supports the vertical member above the roof; and
wherein a hardness of the bearing portion is greater than a hardness of the connecting portion.

12. The fall protection device of claim 11, wherein the bearing foot is molded of plastic.

13. The fall protection device of claim 11, wherein the plastic is polypropylene.

14. The fall protection device of claim 11, wherein the vertical members is in the form of a tube.

15. The fall protection device of claim 14, wherein the bearing foot has a passage formed therein which communicates an interior space of the tube with ambient space outside the tube.

16. The fall protection device of claim 11, wherein the connecting portion of the bearing foot extends into an open lower end of the tube and resiliently engages an interior surface of the tube to secure the bearing foot thereto.

17. The fall protection device of claim 11, wherein the bearing portion is annular shaped having an upper surface and a lower surface spaced from the lower surface and inner and outer edges of the lower bearing surface are free of sharp corners.

18. The fall protection device of claim 11, wherein the bearing portion has an upper surface and a lower surface spaced from the lower surface and a thickness of the bearing portion is at least 0.25 inches.

19. The fall protection device of claim 1, wherein the connecting portion and the bearing portion are co-molded so that the bearing foot is of unitary construction.

20. A fall protection device for an opening in a roof, said device comprising:
at least one rail section having a vertical member;
wherein the vertical member is in the form of a metal tube having an open lower end;
a bearing foot having a connecting portion and a bearing portion;
wherein the bearing foot is secured to the lower end of the vertical member by the connecting portion so that the bearing portion supports the vertical member above the roof;
wherein the connecting portion of the bearing foot extends into the open lower end of the tube and resiliently engages an interior surface of the tube to secure the bearing foot thereto;
wherein a hardness of the bearing portion is greater than a hardness of the connecting portion; and

wherein the connecting portion and the bearing portion are plastic and co-molded so that the bearing foot is of unitary construction.